

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing channel selection in a receiver, the receiver configured to receive a plurality of anchor channels, with at least one of the anchor channels having at least one multiplex channel associated therewith, the method comprising the steps of:

generating an on-screen display which indicates to a viewer if a selected anchor channel has at least one multiplex channel associated therewith; and

receiving a command entered by the viewer for selecting the at least one multiplex channel associated with the selected anchor channel.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the on-screen display includes an anchor channel identifier which identifies a broadcast provider associated with the selected anchor channel and any multiplex channels associated therewith.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the on-screen display includes a multiplex indicator which indicates that the selected anchor channel includes one or more multiplex channels.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the multiplex indicator includes a series of icons, with one of the icons corresponding to each of the multiplex channels associated with the selected anchor channel.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein when a given one of the multiplex channels is selected, its corresponding icon in the on-screen display is replaced with a descriptive title of program content on the given multiplex channel.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein the series of icons are selected from a set of standard icons utilized by different broadcast providers supplying the anchor channels and any associated multiplex channels.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein at least one of the icons is indicative of program content in the corresponding multiplex channel.

8. The method of claim 4 wherein a given one of the icons is displayed in a first color, while the remaining icons are displayed in a second color, when a multiplex channel corresponding to the given icon is selected by the viewer.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving step includes receiving a series of commands from the viewer for sequencing through a plurality of multiplex channels associated with the selected anchor channel.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the generating step includes providing an on-screen electronic programming guide displaying information regarding programs available on the selected anchor channel and the multiplex channels associated therewith.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the electronic programming guide includes identifiers of a set of multiplex channels and an identifier of a corresponding anchor channel, wherein the identifiers of the multiplex channels are indented relative to the identifier of the corresponding anchor channel.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the electronic programming guide utilizes one or more symbols to indicate an association between a set of multiplex channels and a corresponding anchor channel.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the on-screen display includes an indication of the geographic area of a broadcast provider supplying the selected anchor channel.

14. An apparatus for providing channel selection, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver operative to receive a plurality of anchor channels, with at least one of the anchor channels having at least one multiplex channel associated therewith, wherein the receiver is further operative to generate an on-screen display which indicates to a viewer if a selected anchor channel has at least one multiplex channel associated therewith; and

5 a channel selection device operative to generate a viewer-entered command which is supplied to the receiver for selecting the at least one multiplex channel associated with the selected anchor channel.

10 15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the on-screen display includes an anchor channel identifier which identifies a broadcast provider associated with the selected anchor channel and any multiplex channels associated therewith.

16. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the on-screen display includes a multiplex indicator which indicates that the selected anchor channel includes one or more multiplex channels.

15 17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the multiplex indicator includes a series of icons, with one of the icons corresponding to each of the multiplex channels associated with the selected anchor channel.

20 18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein when a given one of the multiplex channels is selected, its corresponding icon in the on-screen display is replaced with a descriptive title of program content on the given multiplex channel.

25 19. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the series of icons are selected from a set of standard icons utilized by different broadcast providers supplying the anchor channels and any associated multiplex channels.

20. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein at least one of the icons is indicative of program content in the corresponding multiplex channel.

21. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein a given one of the icons is displayed in a first color, while the remaining icons are displayed in a second color, when a multiplex channel corresponding to the given icon is selected by the viewer.

5 22. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the channel selection device is further operative to supply to the receiver a series of viewer-entered commands for sequencing through a plurality of multiplex channels associated with the selected anchor channel.

10 23. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the receiver is further operative to generate an on-screen electronic programming guide displaying information regarding programs available on the selected anchor channel and the multiplex channels associated therewith.

15 24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the electronic programming guide includes identifiers of a set of multiplex channels and an identifier of a corresponding anchor channel, wherein the identifiers of the multiplex channels are indented relative to the identifier of the corresponding anchor channel.

20 25. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the electronic programming guide utilizes one or more symbols to indicate an association between a set of multiplex channels and a corresponding anchor channel.

26. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the on-screen display includes an indication of the geographic area of a broadcast provider supplying the selected anchor channel.

25 27. A channel selection device for use in selecting channels in a video receiver, comprising:
a channel up key;
a channel down key, the channel up and channel down keys allowing a viewer to select from a plurality of anchor channels supplied from broadcast providers to the receiver; and

at least one horizontal channel selection key for selecting at least one multiplex channel associated with a selected one of the anchor channels.

- 5 28. The channel selection device of claim 27 wherein the at least one horizontal channel selection key includes a channel right key and a channel left key, the channel right key for selecting among a plurality of multiplex channels associated with the selected anchor channel via movement to the right in a series of icons of an on-screen display, and the channel left key for selecting among the plurality of multiplex channels associated with the selected anchor channel via movement to the left in the series of icons of the on-screen display.

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